

Job Opportunities in Arizona 2003-2013

***What are the fast growing occupations in Arizona?
Which occupations have the most openings?***

Arizona continues to be one of the fastest growing states, in both population and job growth. Population often grows faster in Arizona than employment, intensifying the competition for many of the better paying jobs. While not every one coming to Arizona is seeking employment, there are many situations where there are more job seekers than job openings. For those interested in the Arizona job market, it is helpful to know which occupations and industries have the most opportunities and job openings.

Job openings occur when new jobs are created in the economy (job growth) and from workers leaving an occupation (separations). Workers leave an occupation or job for a myriad of reasons: promotions, retirements, relocations, career changes, personal or professional conflicts, etc. While not all workers leaving an occupation are replaced, many openings are the result of separations. In Arizona, the number of openings created from growth is projected to be only slightly more than the openings created from separations in the time period between 2003 and 2013. The list of fastest growing occupations in Arizona has many health care related occupations, especially occupations with designations in the job titles such as Technicians, Assistants, Therapists, Technologists, Aides, and related. Also in the fast growing list are occupations in Education, Social Work, Computer Support, and Construction.

Because some individual occupations have a much larger employment base to start with, they will have a larger number of openings despite a slower growth rate percentage. For example, even though the projected growth rate between 2003-2013 for the top three fastest growing occupations, Physician Assistants (78%), Medical Assistants (77%), and Respiratory Therapy Technicians (75%) is about triple the growth rate of Retail Salespersons (26%), the estimated 2003 base employment of Retail Salespersons (67,447) is more than four times that of the top three fastest growing occupations combined (14,806). So there will be significantly more total projected openings in Retail Sales (42,316) in the ten-year period between 2003 and 2013 than in the three fastest growing occupations combined (14,068), even though each of those three occupations are projected to almost double in size.

Thus, in addition to a list of fast growing occupations, it is worthwhile to also consider the list of occupations with the most openings when analyzing the job market. In addition to Retail Sales, a few examples of occupations with the most openings include Office Clerks, Food Service Workers, Registered Nurses, Customer Service Workers, Landscaping/Groundskeeping Workers, Elementary School Teachers, Cashiers, and Construction Workers, to name a few.

Another factor to consider is the ratio of separations compared to base employment and growth. When occupations have an unusually high number of openings from

separations, it can indicate high turnover and /or that many workers use this occupation as a "stepping stone", "stop-gap", or "survival job", until they can move on to something else. The occupational projections data provided by the Arizona Department of Economic Security Research Administration itemizes the projected number of openings from separations as well as the openings from growth for each occupation.

Following this narrative are two lists of occupations, with each list containing two pages of information. In the first list, "Arizona's Fast-Growing Occupations", the occupations are ranked by percentage growth rate. The second list, "Arizona Occupations With The Most Openings", ranks occupations by total annual openings (growth openings plus openings from separations). Both lists show 2003 estimated and 2013 projected occupational employment, the numerical and percentage change, the number of projected separations, total openings, and average hourly wages. The lists also contain some explanatory footnotes.

It is interesting to note that almost 15% of the occupations are on both lists. Many of the occupations that appear on both lists are health care related, such as Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Dental Assistants, Medical Assistants, and Medical Lab Technicians. Also on both lists are Police & Sheriff Patrol Officers, Sales Managers, Home Care Aides, Nursing Aides, Receptionists & Information Clerks, Cement Masons & Concrete Finishers, and Drywall & Ceiling Tile Installers.

The data for these two lists are from the 2003-2013 Occupational Employment Projections and the 2003 Occupational Employment Survey (OES) prepared by the Research Administration of the Arizona Department of Economic Security, in cooperation with the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The projections presented should be viewed as indicators of relative magnitude and probable direction rather than as forecasts of absolute occupational demand. Furthermore, the occupational forecasts are only measures of expected employment and demand for labor and indicate little about future labor supply.

The occupational data contained in the four pages of the following two lists represents over 65% of the job opportunities projected between 2003-2013. However, this is only a sample of the occupational data available and the readers are encouraged to also review the 46 pages of data available in the combined data file, which contains more detailed occupational projections, wage data, and educational and training requirements for almost 700 occupations in Arizona. The combined data file is online at: <http://www.workforce.az.gov/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=144>

More data for further analysis of the Arizona job market are available online at the same page cited above. First, there are short-term (2003-2005) occupational projections. Next, for more detailed wage data, such as occupational wages by industry, by county and MSA, and annual wages, look under the heading "Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates" on this page. And as they become available, sub-state occupation projections will be posted to this page.

Arizona's Fast Growing Occupations 2003-2013 ¹							
	Employment		10 Year Employment Change				Average
Occupation Title ²	2003 Estimated	2013 Projected	Number	Percent	Sepa- rations	Total ³ Openings	Hourly Wage
Physician Assistants	2,341	4,178	1,837	78.47%	360	2,197	\$28.72
Medical Assistants	11,652	20,649	8,997	77.21%	2,155	11,152	\$11.36
Respiratory Therapy Technicians	813	1,426	613	75.40%	106	719	\$14.63
Medical Records & Health Information Technicians	3,137	5,397	2,260	72.04%	449	2,709	\$12.11
Dental Assistants	5,239	8,963	3,724	71.08%	1,465	5,189	\$12.69
Dental Hygienists	1,720	2,942	1,222	71.05%	147	1,369	\$28.69
Respiratory Therapists	1,285	2,197	912	70.97%	422	1,334	\$18.86
Physical Therapist Aides	1,336	2,227	891	66.69%	223	1,114	\$8.85
Physical Therapist Assistants	1,535	2,544	1,009	65.73%	256	1,265	\$14.58
Radiation Therapists	538	890	352	65.43%	123	475	\$29.95
Helpers--Extraction Workers	849	1,403	554	65.25%	239	793	\$12.64
Surgical Technologists	1,693	2,768	1,075	63.50%	221	1,296	\$19.65
Packaging & Filling Machine Operators & Tenders	4,345	7,027	2,682	61.73%	864	3,546	\$9.09
Cardiovascular Technologists & Technicians	561	904	343	61.14%	105	448	\$18.38
Social & Human Service Assistants	3,853	6,093	2,240	58.14%	678	2,918	\$12.88
Registered Nurses	34,123	53,901	19,778	57.96%	7,140	26,918	\$24.34
Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists	649	1,020	371	57.16%	114	485	\$26.97
Occupational Therapist Aides	121	190	69	57.02%	15	84	\$11.32
Home Health Aides	10,284	16,077	5,793	56.33%	1,347	7,140	\$8.80
Physical Therapists	2,341	3,636	1,295	55.32%	230	1,525	\$29.10
Occupational Therapists	1,003	1,550	547	54.54%	136	683	\$22.58
Nuclear Medicine Technologists	210	324	114	54.29%	39	153	\$25.46
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	825	1,267	442	53.58%	154	596	\$26.54
Health Professionals & Technicians, All Other (OES Only)	1,645	2,522	877	53.31%	298	1,175	\$14.43
Occupational Therapist Assistants	232	355	123	53.02%	29	152	\$15.06
Mental Health & Substance Abuse Social Workers	1,873	2,859	986	52.64%	321	1,307	\$13.36
Textile, Apparel, & Furnishings Workers, All Others	2,058	3,141	1,083	52.62%	485	1,568	\$9.82
Emergency Medical Technicians & Paramedics	2,195	3,347	1,152	52.48%	252	1,404	\$14.46
Pharmacists	3,210	4,882	1,672	52.09%	622	2,294	\$38.13
Medical & Health Services Managers	4,193	6,354	2,161	51.54%	817	2,978	\$32.88
Radiologic Technologists & Technicians	4,059	6,119	2,060	50.75%	758	2,818	\$19.33
Psychiatric Aides	1,031	1,553	522	50.63%	135	657	\$10.35
Pharmacy Technicians	2,997	4,497	1,500	50.05%	391	1,891	\$11.69
Medical Equipment Preparers	818	1,225	407	49.76%	151	558	\$12.41
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants	18,763	28,037	9,274	49.43%	2,458	11,732	\$9.77
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technologists	2,076	3,090	1,014	48.84%	559	1,573	\$21.74
Medical & Public Health Social Workers	1,086	1,615	529	48.71%	186	715	\$18.71
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technicians	4,851	7,168	2,317	47.76%	1,307	3,624	\$13.70
Epidemiologists	97	143	46	47.42%	17	63	\$20.22
Network Systems & Data Communications Analysts	2,596	3,819	1,223	47.11%	306	1,529	\$28.86
Interviewers, Except Eligibility & Loan	3,448	5,056	1,608	46.64%	890	2,498	\$10.98
Tile & Marble Setters	2,051	3,007	956	46.61%	320	1,276	\$14.51
Gas Plant Operators	73	107	34	46.58%	23	57	\$25.54
Health Diagnosing & Treating Practitioners, All Other	811	1,187	376	46.36%	176	552	\$30.36
Psychiatric Technicians	651	951	300	46.08%	85	385	\$12.19

Arizona's Fast Growing Occupations 2003-2013¹

Occupation Title ²	Employment		10 Year Employment Change				Average
	2003 Estimated	2013 Projected	Number	Percent	Sepa- rations	Total ³ Openings	Hourly Wage
Healthcare Support Workers, All Other	2,880	4,201	1,321	45.87%	533	1,854	\$12.38
Environmental Engineers	805	1,172	367	45.59%	137	504	\$29.25
Stonemasons	934	1,359	425	45.50%	139	564	\$13.24
Personal & Home Care Aides	6,155	8,947	2,792	45.36%	986	3,778	\$9.34
Dietetic Technicians	1,006	1,458	452	44.93%	131	583	\$10.39
Grinding & Polishing Workers, Hand	1,854	2,665	811	43.74%	483	1,294	\$10.83
Cement Masons & Concrete Finishers	7,550	10,839	3,289	43.56%	1,520	4,809	\$15.40
Fashion Designers	155	222	67	43.23%	21	88	\$27.60
Heating, Air Conditioning, & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers	4,598	6,540	1,942	42.24%	611	2,553	\$17.21
Computer Specialists, All Other	1,449	2,055	606	41.82%	164	770	\$24.80
Rehabilitation Counselors	1,547	2,191	644	41.63%	353	997	\$12.58
Mental Health Counselors	1,809	2,561	752	41.57%	413	1,165	\$18.07
Drywall & Ceiling Tile Installers	6,862	9,687	2,825	41.17%	1,488	4,313	\$13.61
Environmental Science & Protection Technicians, Including	263	371	108	41.06%	62	170	\$17.29
Construction Trades & Related Workers, All Other (OES Only)	2,988	4,192	1,204	40.29%	477	1,681	\$12.24
Control & Valve Installers & Repairers, Except Mechanical	1,056	1,480	424	40.15%	264	688	\$17.97
Tapers	4,169	5,828	1,659	39.79%	904	2,563	\$13.43
Petroleum Pump System Operators, Refinery Operators, & Gaugers	166	232	66	39.76%	51	117	\$19.66
Self-Enrichment Education Teachers	4,478	6,250	1,772	39.57%	551	2,323	\$14.85
Receptionists & Information Clerks	19,019	26,543	7,524	39.56%	4,673	12,197	\$10.15
Psychiatrists	312	435	123	39.42%	42	165	\$74.19
Database Administrators	1,511	2,104	593	39.25%	156	749	\$29.03
Sociologists	51	71	20	39.22%	18	38	\$20.91
Hazardous Materials Removal Workers	1,490	2,073	583	39.13%	393	976	\$17.61
Surveying & Mapping Technicians	1,182	1,644	462	39.09%	430	892	\$16.60
Medical Transcriptionists	1,802	2,504	702	38.96%	333	1,035	\$14.05
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	9,001	12,507	3,506	38.95%	1,962	5,468	\$16.40
Ambulance Drivers & Attendants, Except Emergency Medical Technicians	163	226	63	38.65%	17	80	\$8.93
Sales Managers	7,661	10,621	2,960	38.64%	1,414	4,374	\$36.11
Environmental Engineering Technicians	358	496	138	38.55%	75	213	\$17.21
Fitness Trainers & Aerobics Instructors	2,665	3,689	1,024	38.42%	611	1,635	\$14.04
Obstetricians & Gynecologists	209	288	79	37.80%	28	107	\$95.17
Structural Iron & Steel Workers	1,835	2,527	692	37.71%	359	1,051	\$16.40
Special Education Teachers, Middle School	666	917	251	37.69%	159	410	
Dietitians & Nutritionists	1,066	1,467	401	37.62%	278	679	\$19.95
Teachers, Primary, Secondary, & Adult, All Other (OES Only)	3,659	5,034	1,375	37.58%	450	1,825	
Pharmacy Aides	1,504	2,069	565	37.57%	278	843	\$10.56
Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	12,109	16,655	4,546	37.54%	3,133	7,679	\$21.48
Motor Vehicle Operators, All Other	1,958	2,691	733	37.44%	275	1,008	\$11.46
Special Education Teachers, Secondary School	1,607	2,205	598	37.21%	383	981	
Surgeons	320	439	119	37.19%	43	162	\$90.65
Biochemists & Biophysicists	97	133	36	37.11%	30	66	\$39.77

¹Data compiled from 2003 OES survey and 2003-2013 occupational projections prepared by the Arizona Dept of Economic Security in cooperation with the U.S. Dept of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. For a complete list, go online to : www.workforce.az.gov

²Occupational Titles are from the Standard Occupational Classification System (SOC) www.bls.gov/soc/socguide.htm

³Total Openings equals openings from growth plus openings from separations

For some occupations, such as teachers, wages are calculated on an annual basis. For annual wages, go online to: www.workforce.az.gov

Arizona's Occupations with the Most Openings 2003-2013¹

Occupation Title ²	Employment		10 Year Employment Change				Average
	2003 Estimated	2013 Projected	Number	Percent	Sepa- rations	Total ³ Openings	Hourly Wage
Cashiers	65,225	86,033	20,808	31.90%	31,734	52,542	\$8.76
Retail Salespersons	67,447	85,246	17,799	26.39%	24,517	42,316	\$11.10
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	48,467	62,809	14,342	29.59%	21,006	35,348	\$6.78
Waiters & Waitresses	40,918	50,599	9,681	23.66%	21,053	30,734	\$6.66
Registered Nurses	34,123	53,901	19,778	57.96%	7,140	26,918	\$24.34
Customer Service Representatives	46,057	61,335	15,278	33.17%	6,848	22,126	\$12.15
Office Clerks, General	42,406	51,397	8,991	21.20%	9,392	18,383	\$11.05
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	33,192	39,202	6,010	18.11%	10,846	16,856	\$9.46
Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	29,755	38,940	9,185	30.87%	6,476	15,661	\$9.09
Carpenters	33,809	43,240	9,431	27.89%	5,503	14,934	\$15.79
Sales Reps, Wholesale & Manufacturing, Except Technical & Scientific	25,616	33,758	8,142	31.78%	6,726	14,868	\$20.97
Janitors & Cleaners, Except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaner	31,390	39,567	8,177	26.05%	5,957	14,134	\$8.77
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	29,468	35,810	6,342	21.52%	6,503	12,845	
Receptionists & Information Clerks	19,019	26,543	7,524	39.56%	4,673	12,197	\$10.15
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants	18,763	28,037	9,274	49.43%	2,458	11,732	\$9.77
General & Operations Managers	25,249	31,962	6,713	26.59%	4,762	11,475	\$39.50
Medical Assistants	11,652	20,649	8,997	77.21%	2,155	11,152	\$11.36
Teacher Assistants	23,611	29,684	6,073	25.72%	4,560	10,633	
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	26,112	32,384	6,272	24.02%	4,264	10,536	\$16.04
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	27,518	32,977	5,459	19.84%	4,944	10,403	\$16.91
Food Preparation Workers	16,510	20,844	4,334	26.25%	5,841	10,175	\$8.24
Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	23,413	28,640	5,227	22.33%	4,915	10,142	\$7.48
Construction Laborers	22,122	29,294	7,172	32.42%	2,945	10,117	\$10.64
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	23,466	24,810	1,344	5.73%	8,684	10,028	\$10.30
Executive Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	28,825	32,814	3,989	13.84%	5,520	9,509	\$15.50
Accountants & Auditors	21,444	26,834	5,390	25.14%	4,048	9,438	\$23.04
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	18,729	24,215	5,486	29.29%	3,596	9,082	\$13.36
Security Guards	18,929	23,840	4,911	25.94%	4,119	9,030	\$10.17
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	29,396	32,796	3,400	11.57%	5,506	8,906	\$13.77
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Office & Administrative	25,317	28,744	3,427	13.54%	5,432	8,859	\$19.93
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	17,249	21,061	3,812	22.10%	4,589	8,401	\$15.61
Packers & Packagers, Hand	17,636	22,309	4,673	26.50%	3,299	7,972	\$7.54
Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	12,109	16,655	4,546	37.54%	3,133	7,679	\$21.48
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Construction Trades & Extraction Workers	15,611	20,546	4,935	31.61%	2,655	7,590	\$22.51
Home Health Aides	10,284	16,077	5,793	56.33%	1,347	7,140	\$8.80
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special & Vocational Education	13,132	16,434	3,302	25.14%	3,695	6,997	
Cooks, Restaurant	13,269	16,107	2,838	21.39%	4,108	6,946	\$9.70
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing, Technical & Scientific Products	12,725	16,239	3,514	27.61%	3,341	6,855	\$22.99
Secretaries, Except Legal, Medical, & Executive	29,432	30,110	678	2.30%	5,636	6,314	\$11.98

Arizona's Occupations with the Most Openings 2003-2013¹

Occupation Title ²	Employment		10 Year Employment Change				Average
	2003 Estimated	2013 Projected	Number	Percent	Sepa- rations	Total ³ Openings	Hourly Wage
Helpers--Production Workers	10,135	13,544	3,409	33.64%	2,841	6,250	\$8.40
Shipping, Receiving, & Traffic Clerks	13,290	16,770	3,480	26.19%	2,728	6,208	\$10.62
Dining Room & Cafeteria Attendants & Bartender Helpers	10,908	13,452	2,544	23.32%	3,646	6,190	\$6.74
Electricians	10,648	14,595	3,947	37.07%	2,105	6,052	\$17.99
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Food Preparation & Servers	13,542	16,360	2,818	20.81%	3,221	6,039	\$11.82
Team Assemblers	16,445	17,921	1,476	8.98%	4,251	5,727	\$10.53
Bill & Account Collectors	12,487	15,819	3,332	26.68%	2,353	5,685	\$12.75
Management Analysts	15,196	18,698	3,502	23.05%	2,079	5,581	\$27.18
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	9,001	12,507	3,506	38.95%	1,962	5,468	\$16.40
Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services	14,758	18,827	4,069	27.57%	1,354	5,423	\$12.53
Child Care Workers	11,462	13,604	2,142	18.69%	3,121	5,263	\$7.71
Counter & Rental Clerks	8,016	10,189	2,173	27.11%	3,070	5,243	\$11.46
Dishwashers	10,864	12,417	1,553	14.29%	3,667	5,220	\$6.55
Dental Assistants	5,239	8,963	3,724	71.08%	1,465	5,189	\$12.69
Managers, All Other	18,654	20,169	1,515	8.12%	3,634	5,149	\$32.94
Plumbers, Pipefitters, & Steamfitters	8,581	11,449	2,868	33.42%	1,973	4,841	\$18.03
Cement Masons & Concrete Finishers	7,550	10,839	3,289	43.56%	1,520	4,809	\$15.40
Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession, & Coffee Shop	5,469	6,708	1,239	22.65%	3,569	4,808	\$7.61
Tellers	7,051	8,246	1,195	16.95%	3,473	4,668	\$10.64
Operating Engineers & Other Construction Equipment Operators	8,824	11,207	2,383	27.01%	2,269	4,652	\$16.63
Cooks, Fast Food	11,198	12,229	1,031	9.21%	3,467	4,498	\$7.37
Computer Support Specialists	12,570	15,483	2,913	23.17%	1,546	4,459	\$20.10
Sales Managers	7,661	10,621	2,960	38.64%	1,414	4,374	\$36.11
Lawyers	12,511	15,258	2,747	21.96%	1,608	4,355	\$43.91
Drywall & Ceiling Tile Installers	6,862	9,687	2,825	41.17%	1,488	4,313	\$13.61
Helpers--Carpenters	5,913	7,771	1,858	31.42%	2,455	4,313	\$8.90
Farmworkers & Laborers, Crop, Nursery, & Greenhouse	15,116	14,008	-1,108	-7.33%	4,283	4,283	\$6.77
Business Operations Specialists, All Other	8,898	11,644	2,746	30.86%	1,515	4,261	\$25.28
Protective Service Workers, All Other	4,800	5,724	924	19.25%	3,327	4,251	\$11.63
Painters, Construction & Maintenance	9,717	12,448	2,731	28.11%	1,480	4,211	\$12.63
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Non-Retail Sales Workers	12,771	14,563	1,792	14.03%	2,411	4,203	\$25.18
Cleaners of Vehicles & Equipment	8,312	9,616	1,304	15.69%	2,894	4,198	\$7.57
Financial Managers	11,142	13,709	2,567	23.04%	1,597	4,164	\$37.66
Chief Executives	10,048	12,130	2,082	20.72%	1,895	3,977	\$62.46
Bartenders	7,604	8,487	883	11.61%	3,002	3,885	\$7.19
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	7,671	9,562	1,891	24.65%	1,922	3,813	\$23.56
Personal & Home Care Aides	6,155	8,947	2,792	45.36%	986	3,778	\$9.34
Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	8,672	11,397	2,725	31.42%	1,031	3,756	\$9.93
Food Service Managers	11,537	13,296	1,759	15.25%	1,881	3,640	\$17.93
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technicians	4,851	7,168	2,317	47.76%	1,307	3,624	\$13.70

¹Data compiled from 2003 OES survey and 2003-2013 occupational projections prepared by the Arizona Dept of Economic Security in cooperation with the U.S. Dept of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. For a complete list, go online to : www.workforce.az.gov

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For some occupations, such as teachers, wages are calculated on an annual basis. For annual wages, go online to: www.workforce.az.gov